

P R O V I D E N C E :

A N

O R A T O R I O.



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P R O V I D E N C E :

A N

O R A T O R I O.

P E R F O R M E D A T

F R E E - M A S O N S H A L L,

On WEDNESDAY, MAY 14th, 1777.

F O R T H E B E N E F I T O F

T H E M I D D L E S E X H O S P I T A L.

T H E M U S I C C O M P O S E D B Y

M R . F I S H E R.

P R I N T E D B Y H. B A L D W I N , A N D P U B L I S H E D F O R T H E B E N E F I T O F T H E C H A R I T Y .

P r i c e O n e S h i l l i n g .

P R O V I D E N C E :

A. D.

O R A T O R I O .

1850

F R E E - M A S O N ' S H A L L .

On Wednesday, Sept. 14th, 1850.

and the day after.

T H E M I N I S T E R S H O U S E .

THE MASON'S HALL.

M. F. E. H. M.

Printed by J. B. COOPER, at the "PROVIDENCE" Press.

1850

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL;

FOR THE RECEPTION OF

SICK AND LAME PATIENTS,

A N D

LYING-IN MARRIED WOMEN.

P R E S I D E N T,

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

V I C E P R E S I D E N T S,

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE EARL GOWER.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD GROSVENOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD SCARSDALE.

LORD ALGERNON PERCY.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY.

SIR ROBERT CLAYTON, BART.

JOHN MACHIN, Esq;

WILLIAM WRIGHT, Esq;

} TREASURERS,

{ *Friith - Street, King-
Square Court, Soho.*

THIS Hospital was instituted in *August* 1745, for Sick and Lame Patients, but in 1747 the Governors extended their Plan to the Relief of the pregnant Wives of reduced Tradesmen, poor Mechanics, Sailors, Soldiers, &c. being the first and only Example of this Sort of Charity within the Kingdom. The convenient Situation of the Hospital occasioning greater Numbers to apply for Admittance than the Building could contain, and it being still incomplete, the Governors unanimously resolved in 1775 to complete the same, by building an East Wing,

A

which

which is now erected and covered in; and though there is wanting a considerable Sum to finish and furnish it, yet they are induced to hope that, when the immense Utility of Hospitals to the Public is considered, by saving the Lives and restoring to Health such Numbers of laborious Poor, it will meet with all the Encouragement it deserves, especially from the Ladies, whose amiable Attributes of Tendernefs and Compassion have always been eminently displayed on such Occasions.

It is intended, when the East Wing shall be finished, to remove the Lying-In Wards into it, which is particularly adapted for that Purpose, having a separate Vestibule and Door into the Court-Yard, that Ladies may conveniently visit the Lying-In Women; as it has no Connection with the Sick and Lame Wards.

Benefactors of one Hundred Pounds, or upwards, and Subscribers of Ten Guineas *per Ann.* are entitled to recommend as many Sick and Lame Patients, or Lying-In Women as they think fit.

Benefactors of Fifty Pounds, or Subscribers of Five Guineas *per Ann.* are entitled to recommend annually Five Lying-In Women, and Five Sick or Lame Patients, and what Number of Out-Patients they think fit.

Benefactors of Thirty Guineas, or Subscribers of Three Guineas *per Ann.* are Governors, and are entitled to recommend Two Lying-In Women, and Three Sick and Lame In-Patients annually, and as many Out-Patients as they think fit.

Ladies subscribing as above, are entitled to vote by Proxy at all Elections of Officers to the Hospital; such Proxy being delivered by a Governor specifying for whom they Vote.

Subscriptions and Benefactions are received by the Treasurers and at the Hospital.

Sick and Lame Patients who have been admitted into the Hospital since its first Institution } 54628
1745, to 31st *December* 1775.

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|------|
| Lying-In Women | = | = | = | = | 6501 |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|------|

| | |
|-------|-------|
| Total | 61129 |
|-------|-------|

Amongst which are included from 31st *December* 1775, to 31st *December* 1776—698, Accidents all of them received without any Recommendation.

Received of the Treasurer of the
Board of Directors of the
City of New York the sum of
\$100.00 for the year 1874.

Witness my hand and seal this 1st day of
January 1875.

Attest: I have examined the
accounts of the Treasurer for the year
1874 and find them correct.

JOHN J. HENRY
Treasurer of the Board of Directors
of the City of New York

JOHN J. HENRY
Treasurer of the Board of Directors
of the City of New York

The DUKE of NORTHUMBERLAND.

May it please your Grace,

THE following Oratorio was originally planned, for the purpose of giving *Mr. Fisher* an opportunity of displaying his musical abilities to the Public, in this species of Composition. I was happy in making this offering to Friendship; and it now gives me infinite satisfaction, that it is likely to prove beneficial to that most excellent Charity, the *Middiesex Hospital*; at the head of which, your Grace most generously condescends to preside: A Condescension that adds to the number of those benevolent and noble actions, which so highly distinguish and illustrate the *house of Northumberland*.

I am, Your Grace's,

Most Devoted,

Most Obedient,

Humble Servant,

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Recitatives in this Oratorio are selected from the Cambridge Prize-Poems of the late ingenious Mr. *Christopher Smart*; except where the necessity of a proper connection obliged the Compiler occasionally to add a few lines. The Airs and Choruses, in general, are new; and the Author has nothing to say in their favour, having principally had it in view, to render them subservient to the purposes of Music.

P R O V I D E N C E :

A N

O R A T O R I O.

PART THE FIRST.

RECITATIVE : *Accompanied.*

HAIL, wond'rous Being, who in pow'r supreme
Exists from everlasting, whose great Name
Deep in the human heart, and every atom
The Air, the Earth, or azure Main contains
In undecypher'd characters is wrote—

CHORUS.

I N C O M P R E H E N S I B L E !

AIR.

*Let, then, the Trumpet sound His praise,
And choirs uniting plaudits raise ;
Let Cherubims on high proclaim,
In Hymns of joy, th' Eternal's name.*

RECITATIVE.

Before this earthly Planet wound her course,
 Before “ the Morning-Stars together sang”
 And hail’d Him Architect of countless worlds
 He was—all-glorious, all-beneficent,
 All Wisdom, Goodness and Omnipotence !

CHORUS.

*Songs of Adoration sing,
 To the Universal King :
 Nature’s great, creative Lord,
 Is by countless worlds ador’d.*

RECITATIVE.

Hear, Ignorance and self-plum’d Vanity—
 Distrustful and presumptuous Mortals, hear,
 The pow’r and greatness of the Living Lord.

AIR.

*When Chaos first in darkness lay,
 Unmov’d by his creative hand,
 He call’d forth Light—and All was Day !
 Creation ’rose at his command.*

RECITATIVE.

Great was the Scene—all-glorious to behold,
 The King of Worlds, cloath’d in resplendent light,
 Pleas’d with the works of His Almighty hand.

AIR.

*Air, Earth, and Seas confess His pow'r,
 As each by Wisdom's order came;
 The Planets, ruling ev'ry hour,
 Obedient own his mighty name:
 Birds, Insects, Plants His pow'r display,
 And ev'ry living creature known;
 The Moon by night, the Sun by day,
 Revolving, His direction own.*

CHORUS.

*His pow'r and greatness all proclaim'd around,
 Mountains and vallies felt the pleasing sound:
 From this great, universal Jubilee,
 Arose the laws and pow'r of Harmony.*

AIR.

*Then Hymn His praise in songs of joy,
 The God of Worlds adore;
 Let Gratitude her pow'rs employ,
 'Till Time shall be no more.*

RECITATIVE.

Man, He created sov'reign Lord of all,
 The fav'rite work of his all-pow'rful hand:
 Him, He endued with thought, and pow'r of speech,
 To Man, as Lord of all, His will was known,
 On him His choicest blessings were conferr'd,
 Fair Eden's blisful seat his fix'd abode,
 All earthly pleasures and eternal life.

AIR and CHORUS.

*Awake up to glory, awake harp and lute,
The sweet-sounding lyre, and the soft-breathing flute ;
Let the loud-pealing Organ, and shrill Trumpet sound,
His greatness proclaim to the Universe round.*

RECITATIVE.

Still bent on mighty acts, cou'd ought retard
Goodness, that knows no bounds, from blessing ever,
Or keep th' immense Artificer in Sloth ?
No—in th' exertion of His righteous pow'r,
Ten thousand times more active than the Sun,
He reign'd, and with a mighty hand compos'd
Systems innumerable, matchless all,
All stamp'd with His uncounterfeited seal.

AIR.

*What tongue can speak His mighty pow'r,
What words His praise declare ?
The theme's too high for Man to soar,
Weak Man must then forbear.*

RECITATIVE.

Since, then, for humble Man the task is vain,
To speak Him as He is, who is Ineffable ;
Yet still let reason thro' the eye of faith
View Him with fearful Love ; let truth pronounce,
And adoration on her bended knee
With Heav'n-directed hands confess His reign.
And let th' Angelic, Archangelic band
With all the Hosts of Heav'n, Cherubic forms,
And forms Seraphic, with their silver trumps,
Their golden lyres, and their ten thousand tongues,
Begin a grand thanksgiving to the Lord,
Saying,

FULL CHORUS.

*Hail Mighty King ! to thee our songs we raise,
Whose greatness soars beyond the flight of praise !*

END OF THE FIRST PART.

P R O V I D E N C E :

A N

O R A T O R I O.

P A R T T H E S E C O N D.

RECITATIVE.

GREAT is the Lord, and wonderful His pow'r!
He measur'd in the hollow of His hand
Th' exulting Ocean, and the highest Heav'ns
He comprehended with a span, and weigh'd
The mighty mountains in His golden Scales:
He shone supreme, who was himself the light,
Ere yet Refraction learn'd her skill to paint,
And bend athwart the clouds her beauteous bow.

ACCOMPANIED.

Arise, Angelic choirs, and with new strains
All Hymn your God, and thou, immortal Fame,
Arise, and sound thy everlasting trump.

FULL CHORUS.

FULL CHORUS.

*In songs of glory, hymns of praise,
Let all their tuneful voices raise ;
And let Heav'n's mansions loudly ring
With plaudits to th' Eternal King.*

RECITATIVE : *Accompanied.*

And thou, cherubic Gratitude, whose voice
To pious ears sounds silvery so sweet,
Come with thy precious incense, bring thy gifts,
And with thy choicest stores the Altar crown.

AIR.

*Man bless'd beyond the reach of thought,
Within the womb once lay conceal'd,
'Till Heav'n's high will its wonders wrought,
And Life and God-like pow'rs reveal'd.*

RECITATIVE.

Yet, boast not Man ; presume not on thy pow'rs,
For, thou art still imperfect, incorrect,
Perfection infinite with God remains,
He is the Being most supremely wond'rous,
Uncircumscrib'd unsearchable profound,
And estimable solely in Himself!

AIR and CHORUS.

*In tuneful notes proclaim
 Th' Almighty's boundless Fame,
 Let sacred ardour glow;
 Let Harmony its force employ,
 Let choirs unite in songs of joy,
 And loudly raise,
 To sing his praise,
 From whom all blessings flow.*

RECITATIVE.

What is that secret pow'r, that guides the brutes,
 Which Ignorance calls Instinct? 'Tis from God,
 It is the operation of His hands
 Immediate, instantaneous; 'tis his wisdom,
 That glorious shines transparent thro' His works.—
 When Philomela, ere the cold domain
 Of cripled winter 'gins t' advance, prepares
 Her annual flight, and in some poplar shade
 Takes her melodious leave, who then's her pilot?
 Who points her passage through the pathless void,
 To realms from us remote, to us unknown?
 Her science is the science of her God.

AIR.

*Observe the sage, industrious Ant,
 To her thou sluggard go;
 She guards against impending want,
 When winter threatens woe:
 By her example learn to live,
 Her conduct make thy own,
 For Heav'n directs her how to thrive,
 And all her labours crown.*

RECITATIVE.

Who taught the feather'd Matron, that the hawk
 Was hatch'd her foe, and liv'd by her destruction?
 Her own prophetic soul is active in her,
 And more than human providence her guard—
 So the domestic animal, that guards
 At midnight hours Man's threshold, if oppress'd
 By sudden sickness, at his master's feet
 Begg not that aid his services might claim,
 But is his own physician, knows the case,
 And from th' emetic herbage works his cure.

AIR.

*Such wondrous works bath God alone,
 For secret purpose wrought;
 For acts like these Mankind must own,
 Beyond the reach of thought.*

RECITATIVE.

Avaunt Conceit, Ambition take thy flight
 Back to the Prince of vanity and air !
 Oh, 'tis a thought of energy most piercing,
 Form'd to make pride grow humble ; form'd to force
 Its weight on the reluctant mind, and give her
 A true but irksome image of herself.---

ACCOMPANIED.

Woeful vicissitude ! when Man, fall'n Man,
 Who first from Heav'n, from gracious God himself,
 Learn'd knowledge of the Brutes, must know by Brutes
 Instructed and reproach'd, the scale of being ;
 By slow degrees from lowly steps ascend,
 And trace Omniscience upwards to its spring !
 Yet murmur not, but praise—for tho' we stand
 Of many a God-like privilege amerc'd
 By Adam's dire transgression, tho' no more
 Is paradise our home, but o'er the portal
 Hangs in terrific pomp the burning blade ;
 Still with ten thousand beauties blooms the Earth
 With pleasures populous, and with riches crown'd.

AIR.

*Choice blessings hath the Lord bestow'd,
 (To Him let incense burn)
 Far more than Virtue can deserve,
 Or Gratitude return.*

RECITATIVE.

RECITATIVE.

Then, O ye People, O ye Sons of Men,
Whatever be the colour of your lives,
Whatever portion of itself his Wisdom
Shall deign t' allow, still patiently abide,
And praise Him more and more ; nor cease to chant
'Till hoary Time his latest course hath run,

FULL CHORUS.

*All Glory to th' Omniscient, and Praise
And Pow'r, and Domination in the Height !*

END OF THE SECOND PART.

PROVIDENCE:

A N

O R A T O R I O.

PART THE THIRD.

RECITATIVE: *Accompanied.*

“**T**REMBLE, thou earth! th’ anointed poet said,
At God’s bright presence, tremble, all ye mountains
And all ye hillocks on the surface bound.”

CHORUS.

*Then once again, ye thunders roll,
The Muse with transport bears;
Convulse the earth, from pole to pole,
And shake the vaulted spheres.*

RECITATIVE.

'Tis thy terrific voice ; thou God of power,
'Tis thy terrific voice ; all Nature hears it
Awaken'd and alarm'd ; she feels its force,
In every spring she feels it, every wheel,
And every movement of her vast Machine.

RECITATIVE : *Accompanied.*

Behold ! quakes Apennine, behold ! recoils
Athos, and all the hoary-headed Alps
Leap from their bases at the God-like sound.
But what is this, celestial tho' the note,
And proclamation of the reign supreme,
Compar'd with such as, for a mortal ear
Too great, amaze the incorporeal worlds ?
But like the echo of the parting breeze,
When Zephyr faints upon the lily's breast ;
But like the ceasing of some instrument,
When the last ling'ring undulation
Dies on the doubting ear, if nam'd with sounds
So mighty ! so stupendous ! so divine !

AIR.

*Hark, when the Whirlwind rapid rides,
 Tempestuous all around;
 Earth, seas and sky,
 Before it fly;
 Thro' worlds invincible it strides,
 Swift as the Thunder's bound:
 So great its sway,
 Whole Worlds obey;
 From pole to pole, from shore to shore,
 Earth, seas and planets are no more.*

RECITATIVE.

At God's great, righteous power whole systems quake,
 And at His nod tremble ten thousand worlds.
 The West encounters East, and Notus meets
 In his career the Hyperborean blast.
 All Nature faints and dies;—while He supreme
 Stands stedfast in the center of the storm.

RECITATIVE : *Accompanied.*

Wherefore, ye objects terrible and great,
 Ye thunders, earthquakes, and ye fire-fraught wombs
 Of fell Volcanos, whirlwinds, hurricanes,
 And boiling billows hail! in chorus join
 To celebrate and magnify your Maker,
 Who yet in works of a minuter mould
 Is not less manifest, is not less mighty.

CHORUS.

*Then celebrate his praise, who is, and was,
And in immortal prowess King of Kings
Shall be the Monarch of all Worlds for ever.*

RECITATIVE.

Immense Creator ! whose all-pow'rful hand
Fram'd universal Being, and whose Eye
Saw like thyself, that all things form'd were good,
Each soul is fill'd with gratitude and Thee.

RECITATIVE : *Accompanied.*

Raise swelling notes round the Cathedral's dome,
And grace th' harmonious choir, celestial feast
To pious ears, and med'cine of the mind ;
The thrilling trebles and the manly base
Join in accordance meet, and with one voice
All to the sacred subject suit their song.

AIR and CHORUS.

*Bow down, ye stately cedars low,
Ye Elephants submissive bow ;
Whole worlds shall God's great goodness own—
To worlds his excellence is known.*

RECITATIVE.

What tho' th' Almighty's regal throne be rais'd
 High o'er yon azure Heav'n's exalted dome,
 By mortal eye unken'd---where East, nor West,
 Nor South, nor blust'ring North has breath to blow ;
 Albeit He there with Angels, and with Saints
 Hold conference, and to his radiant host
 Ev'n face to face stand visibly confest :
 Yet know that nor in Presence or in Pow'r
 Shines He less perfect here ; 'tis Man's dim eye
 That makes th' obscurity. He is the same,
 Alike in all his Universe the same.

AIR.

*The knee, which He has shap'd, shall bend,
 The tongue, which He has tun'd, shall praise ;
 Whole worlds, 'till worlds themselves have end,
 The song of Gratitude shall raise.*

RECITATIVE.

But, O supreme, unutterable mercy !
 O love unequal'd, mystery immense,
 Which Angels long t' unfold ! 'tis man's redemption
 That crowns thy glory, and thy pow'r confirms,
 Confirms the great, th' uncontroverted claim—
 When from the Virgin's unpolluted womb
 Shone forth the Sun of Righteousness reveal'd,
 And on benighted reason pour'd the day.

ACCOMPANIED.

Let there be peace (he said) and all was calm
 Amongst the warring world---calm as the sea,
 When O be still, ye boisterous Winds, he cry'd,
 And not a breath was blown, nor murmur heard.

UNACCOMPANIED.

His was a life of miracles and might,
 And charity and love, ere yet he taste
 The bitter draught of death, ere yet he rise
 Victorious o'er the universal foe,
 And Death, and Sin and Hell in triumph lead.
 His by the right of conquest is mankind,
 And in sweet servitude and golden bonds
 We're ty'd to him for ever.—O how easy
 Is his ungalling Yoke, and all his burdens
 'Tis ecstasy to bear! Him blessed Shepherd
 His flocks shall follow thro' the maze of life,
 And shades that tend to Day-spring from on high;
 And as the radiant roses after fading
 In fuller foliage and more fragrant breath
 Revive in smiling spring, so shall it fare
 With those that love him---for sweet is their favour,
 And all eternity shall be their spring.

AIR.

*Their bliss shall boast undying bloom
 From jarring passions freed,
 Nor dubious hope, nor anxious gloom,
 For so hath Fate decreed.*

RECITATIVE.

Then join the general chorus of all worlds,
And let the song of charity begin,
In strains seraphic, and melodious pray'r.

ACCOMPANIED.

“ O all-sufficient, all-beneficent,
Thou God of Goodness and of glory hear!
Thou, who to lowliest minds dost condescend,
Assuming passions to enforce thy laws,
Adopting jealousy to prove thy love:

UNACCOMPANIED.

Thou, who resign'd humility uphold,
Ev'n as the florist props the drooping rose,
But quell tyrannic pride with peerless pow'r,
Ev'n as the tempest rives the stubborn oak,

ACCOMPANIED.

O all-sufficient, all-beneficent,
Thou God of Goodness and of glory hear!”

FULL CHORUS.

*Bless all Mankind, and bring them pure and free
To Heav'n, to Immortality, and THEE.*

HALLELUJAH.

AMEN.

